

RE: NRES-D-11-00011, titled "Psychometric Validation of a Short Acculturation Scale for Korean Immigrants"

Dear Dr. Choi,

Recently you sent your manuscript for consideration by Nursing Research. The review of your manuscript is complete and the comments of the reviewers are listed below along with a checklist for style. You may revise your manuscript based on the reviews and resubmit the manuscript to Nursing Research for further consideration. I will verify that this has been done upon receipt of the revised manuscript.

As you make revisions, please fully address this comment by Reviewer #1, "In addition to the typical demographics questions, the authors asked about age of arrival and years lived in the U.S. as proxies of acculturation. Can they consider including those two items to the SAS-K and SASH and reassessing the psychometric values in their recommendations for future research? After all, those items helped in the assessment of construct validity for the SAS-K."

Reviewer Comments:

Reviewer #1: Nursing Research
Manuscript Number: NRES-D-11-00011

This manuscript is on validation of the Short Acculturation Scale in older first-generation Korean immigrants. The tool was originally validated in younger multi-generation sample of Hispanics. The rationale for the study was clearly specified in the paper. For instance, the high prevalence of lifestyle-related chronic disease and risk factors among Korean immigrants call for a valid short acculturation scale to use in clinical practice and health care settings. In addition, the need to validate the stated scale is underscored by the fact that the direction between acculturation and health is inconsistent in published studies, acculturation continues to be an important research variable of interest in many studies of minorities' health, and few studies have examined acculturation and health within Korean immigrants, let alone, the SASH has never been used in a Korean sample study. The purpose of the study was to validate the psychometric properties of a Short Acculturation Scale originally developed for Hispanics (SASH) after translating the scale to Korean (SAS-K) to determine its suitability for use with Korean immigrants

Established steps were taken to translate SASH (English version) into Korean language (SAS-K); it was pilot tested in a representative sample of five Koreans. Pilot test feedback was used to modify (twice) the SAS-K prior to the psychometric testing of its equivalence to the English version of the SASH. Both the SASH and SAS-K are 12-item instruments with three subscales (language, media, and ethnic-social relations). The response format for the items was described. Analysis procedures including estimating means and standard deviations, reliability coefficient alphas, criterion validity, and a second order confirmatory factor analysis were critically described along with using goodness of fit indexes (RMSEA and SRMR) to evaluate the model fitness.

Results confirmed the three main factors in the acculturation SAS-K which were also positively associated with length of residence in the U.S., age of arrival, and English proficiency. In addition, the reliability coefficients for the total scale and subscales were all acceptably high. Using established interpretation guidelines, the authors found that participants rated themselves well below the mean score on all three subscales and the total acculturation scale. With length of residence, age of arrival, and English proficiency as criterion validity standards, the authors found significant correlations with all three subscales and total score of the SAS-K. Construct validity was established with the second-order confirmatory factor analysis which showed an adequate model fit. The authors discussed the limitations of the study. They concluded that SAS-K is a short and easy-to-use acculturation measure, validated for Korean immigrants, and can be used in clinical or research settings.

The study was strengthened by the authors' selection of a popular and widely used acculturation scale and identifying critical issues associated with translating an instrument and assessing its psychometric characteristics in a new population. The paper is an interesting and important addition to the literature.

Comments for authors to consider:

P. 1, lines 2-3; p. 2, lines 4-6: Can the authors consider using immigrants instead of "minorities". This study was conducted in the United States and African Americans constitute a minority ethnic group. Will the authors say that African Americans need to acculturate? Surely, they did that centuries ago but may not need to do so in the 21st Century.

p. 5, lines 10-11: pilot testing sample of five - were they males, females or both?

In addition to the typical demographics questions, the authors asked about age of arrival and years lived in the U.S. as proxies of acculturation. Can they consider including those two items to the SAS-K and SASH and reassessing the psychometric values in their recommendations for future research? After all, those items helped in the assessment of construct validity for the SAS-K.

p. 8, line 17: if appropriate, modify to read as "? similar subscale (SASH-cc) and total scale means ?"

p. 8, line 23: To be consistent, change "larger" to "higher"; on page 10 you use higher. Also, on p. 9, line 10: is it "lower" or "smaller"?

p. 9, line 9: Despite the sentence from line 6-9, this reviewer thinks the author should make a statement on the negative correlations of age of arrival with all the three subscales (Table 3).

p. 9, end of section on Criterion and Construct Validity: It is possible that the authors did not have information on the use of the English Proficiency tool with the SASH (depicted on Table 3). The authors should make a statement on that.

p. 11, section of limitations: what about the fact that some data were not available and the authors could only make intelligent guess by eye balling or visual inspection of the means. Is that a limitation or not? Table 3. To be consistent with the wordings in the text, "All Items" needs to be changed to Overall or Total Scale"

Reviewer #2: This is a well written and informative manuscript of interest to researchers who study Koreans and acculturation. Nonetheless, there are a few areas for improvement. A stronger argument could have been made for the importance of validating the measure of acculturation. It is not clear how lines 9 through 18 support overall importance. More specifically, what is it about inconsistent findings about the relationship between acculturation and health that warrant validating the Short Acculturation Scale for Korean immigrants? The study purpose is clear but aims a & b, as stated on page 4, are confusing. I misinterpreted these aims, initially expecting that the comparisons were between a Korean and English version of the Short Acculturation Scale when used with Koreans. A brief explanation of "double translation" would be valuable to readers who are unfamiliar with translation techniques. Page 7, line 4, was unclear - "due to the nature of data collection, there was no missing data". Were cases selected from the larger study on the basis of no missing data? If yes, this could bias the results. Participants often leave items unanswered if they do not understand them. The tables and figure are informative but the reader is not prepared for including two Hispanic samples on Table 2.

CHECKLIST FOR STYLE

TABLE 1 -- Please provide the publication by Marin et al., pp. 183-205.